

Wilson Posts FY2010 Earmark Requests on his Website

Congressman clearly outlines criteria for earmark consideration and the process involved in securing funding for local projects.

WASHINGTON, D.C. – Congressman Charlie Wilson (OH-6) today submitted to the House Appropriations Committee 108 Congressionally directed spending requests, or earmark requests, for FY2010. All of the requests he made of the committee are listed [here](#).

Every year the Appropriations Committee sets aside 1% of total federal spending for local projects. Each member of Congress participates in directing those dollars to their Congressional Districts. Last year Wilson secured nearly \$8 million in Congressional spending earmarked for the Sixth District.

“Project requests from our local leaders and community groups are an important connection between national and local interests,” Wilson said. “Often, there are improvements at home that just aren’t possible to complete without federal dollars. However, when it comes to spending taxpayers’ money, it’s important to make tough choices.”

Community and business leaders who make up the Sixth Congressional District submitted 197 projects for consideration that they valued at more than \$493 million. Wilson is requesting \$62,374,150 from the Appropriations committee.

“People across the country are hurting right now, but I intend to fight hard to get every federal dollar I can for the people of the Sixth District. I know some people don’t approve of the idea of earmarks, but the truth is that there is already money in the federal budget set aside by the Administration specifically for projects that we, as Members of Congress, think are important to our district,” Wilson explained. “I wouldn’t be doing my job well if I wasn’t fighting to make sure folks up and down the Ohio River get their fair share.”

“Given the tough economic times and the level of competition for projects among Members of Congress, I anticipate receiving much less from the Appropriations Committee than I’m requesting. At the end of the day, we have to try to help as many people as we can,” Wilson said.

Wilson used a set of criteria to evaluate and select projects for submission. First and foremost, the project had to have a direct impact on the Sixth Congressional District. Any projects requested from outside the district or projects that would not have a direct impact on the district were automatically excluded from consideration. In addition, each project selected by Wilson had to meet at least one of the following key criteria set by Wilson and his staff:

- The project promotes economic development.
- The project creates jobs.
- The project promotes citizen’s health and safety.
- The project promotes one of the Congressman’s three key priorities: healthcare, energy independence, education.

In an effort to provide complete transparency and to increase public understanding of the process, Wilson outlined the steps that make up the process:

1. Invite applications from localities, nonprofits, and businesses that wish to request earmarked funds.
2. Evaluate requested projects based on the criteria outlined above. Eliminate projects that do not meet those basic requirements.
3. Based on past support, similar requests, and likelihood of project funding, evaluate the total amount requested and determine a reasonable number to submit to the Appropriations Committee.
4. Post earmark requests on www.charliewilson.house.gov. The website listing must include an explanation of what the project would do for the 6th District and why it's a good use of taxpayers' money.
5. Submit requests to the Appropriations Committee electronically. Each submission must include a letter certifying that Wilson will not benefit financially from the earmarks.
6. As each of the 12 appropriations bills comes up for a vote in the House, they will be accompanied by a list identifying each earmark in the bill and which member requested it. Wilson has requested funding in 9 of the 12 bills.
7. After each appropriations bill passes the House, it is sent to the Senate to be voted upon.
8. If the Senate-passed bill differs from the House-passed bill, the two versions are sent to a conference committee. Once a compromise bill emerges from conference, it must be voted on in both the House and the Senate.
9. Once the conference version of the bill passes both bodies, it is sent to the President for his signature.
10. Congressman Wilson notifies the local project coordinators and the community which projects will be funded under the new appropriations law.
11. The money is appropriated to the various federal agencies responsible for distributing the funding. The agencies typically contact the local project coordinators who are to be awarded earmarked funds. The agencies inform those project coordinators that there are forms to be filed and federal guidelines to be met in order to receive the amount of the earmarked funds.